

Toc H Annual Report 1974-75

The Annual Report of Toc H and Toc H Women's Association
for the year ended 31 March 1975 to be presented at
the Central Council meeting on 8 November 1975

'We need to create a society based more on compassion than on competition. We need, in an increasingly impersonal world, to stress the importance of personal relationships. Above all we need opportunities to discover what values make sense of today's world, what it is that will give our lives a meaning and a purpose'

From the Chairman

1975, Diamond Jubilee Year: what a year it has been, and what a privilege it is to be a member of Toc H during this stirring period of recollection, celebration and rededication. The Diamond Jubilee has been observed in many different ways in many different parts of the country and the world, and we have all been caught up in it in one form or another.

Soon this momentous year will come to an end, and when all the festivals and fireworks are over, when the immediate excitement has subsided and the 'togetherness' has inevitably, to some extent, dissolved, a big question remains. What now?

There are three things we must do: look behind, look around, look forward.

What have we behind us?

During this year I have re-read many of the early chronicles of Toc H which, I believe, have never been bettered. One is swept along by the sheer enthusiasm to be found there. Barclay Baron, 30 years ago, looked back to the early days of Toc H and quoted Wordsworth to describe them: 'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young was very heaven!'

He went on to say, 'We didn't always feel like that; we were often as hot and bothered about Toc H as any member has been ever since, but new members in every generation experience the same early-morning feeling as they step into the fresh-discovered country called Toc H and look eagerly towards its wide horizon of possibilities. The 'post-war' membership are likely to find the building of Toc H an adventure every bit as exciting and hazardous as any of us old-timers have done.'

What have we around us?

Toc H has been described as a fellowship of people, young and old, grave and gay, rich and poor, living a balanced life and trying to give expression to the Christian ideals which lie at its heart—the promotion of understanding between man and his fellows, and the creation of a society in which men and women can live as liberated children of God.

How do we try to give expression to those ideals? Read this Annual Report, read *Point Three* month by month, keep in touch with what is happening in your own District and Region. You may be surprised at what you find. If you are, ask the question, 'What can I do to help?' You will find many ready answers.

What have we before us?

You will recall hearing at the Jubilee Festival last May some words written by Tubby in 1950: 'Toc H has two choices for its future, either to be a small society complete with rules and over-organised; or it can lay aside a sense of failure and step out bravely in the Master's Name into the wilderness of human need.'

That wilderness is today more complex and challenging than ever before. Its demands come in many forms, and every one of us has something to offer to meet those demands. Our finest gesture of thanksgiving in this Diamond Jubilee Year should be to bring in new members, share the fellowship, share the service, share the gallant and high-hearted happiness which we have enjoyed for so long.

In short, in remembering with gratitude those from whom we have inherited the great past of Toc H, let us ensure its equally great future by taking to heart Our Lord's instruction, 'Go and do thou likewise'.

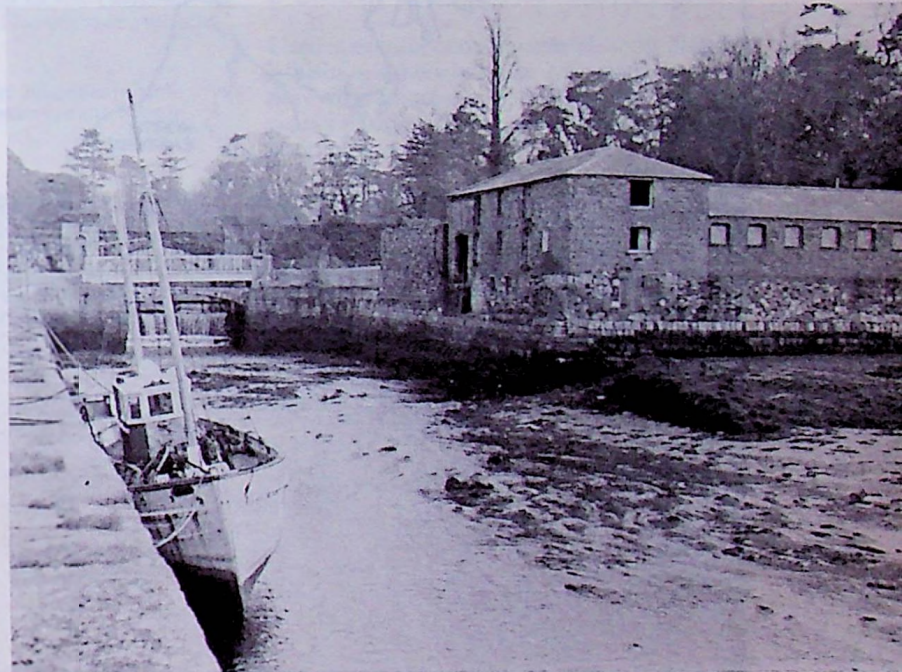
Betty Cornick

Front cover: Ken Prideaux-Brune, Director

In thanksgiving for its 60-year inheritance, Toc H set up a Diamond Jubilee Fund with two targets: first, to build a well and a health and welfare centre for a drought-stricken area of South India; and second, to establish a recreation and conference centre in North Wales

The Toc H members and friends who are establishing the centre at Pannikampatti: third left is Dr Mrs S Stephen, medical superintendent of the Church of South India Mission Hospital, who approached Toc H for help; and extreme right, Mr Vellaisamy Reddiar, donor of the land on which the centre is to be built

The east wing of the warehouse at Port Penrhyn, to be converted into a recreation centre



In the Regions



Mid-Eastern Region



The year under review started with the introduction of regionalisation, and the challenge this presented to all members has in broad principle been accepted.

A Regional Executive of seven members was formed consisting of a harmonious assortment of long-serving members and new recruits, covering a wide age range and an even wider experience of Toc H, strengthened further by the inclusion of the Staff working on an equal footing.

The agreed plan to group the staff in the geographical centre of the Region (Peterborough) enabled the Region to withstand the loss of Ray Fabes in August, the staff work being continued untiringly by John Biggerstaff, Sue Cumming, Jimmy Cliffe and Betty Cutt (Regional Office Secretary), supported by Richard Green (long-term volunteer) since October.

The first priority of the Regional Executive Committee was the complex question of communications. If regionalisation is to

work all members must know what is planned, and a two-way line of communication must be established, with the Central Councillors as the main link in the chain.

Working through three sub-committees, the Executive has been able to diversify the talents of its members into detailed thinking and planning for the future.

One group, responsible for communication, development and training, is exploring possibilities of extending Toc H into the 'barren' parts of the Region and of helping the existing membership to widen its horizons.

Another group is responsible for co-ordinating all summer, Easter and week-end programmes and helping Districts and branches to extend their activities. It is encouraging the planning of activities two years ahead, leading to a more positive follow-up of volunteers.

The success of week-end programmes has been most encouraging and, with the many new contacts made, augurs well for the future.

The third group is responsible for the daily working of the Region, including all financial matters. With each region becoming responsible for its own financial viability in the coming year, the group has plans to encourage a wider understanding of the need for financial stewardship.

The life of the Region continues through the many and varied involvements of members working in branches and alone. The lively branches continue to thrive, and although a few branches have closed, others have replaced them, namely Gedling Group, which has attained

branch status, and West Hallam (men) and Lincoln (joint), which have been reborn. At the Cheshire Home (Hovendon House) near Spalding, a new joint unit has been formed including 13 of the residents.

Several new expressions of Toc H have developed during the year, notably the Wellingborough Toc H Action Group, formed to continue and develop the contacts made as a result of the first-ever Children's Camp in Wellingborough last summer.

Rushden continues to be unique in having five lively branches within a population of 20,000.

In Norfolk, the Children's Camps continued to flourish based in the rural setting of the new 'centre' at Garvestone, which

One of the many summer projects which attracted volunteers from abroad: beach-cleaning at Cromer
Photo: *Eastern Daily Press*

was also the base for a week-end for children of mixed nationalities from Peterborough, and a conservation week-end.

Blind Toc H members from various parts of the country again enjoyed a memorable holiday in Gorleston, ably organised by the Broads District.

Norwich Toc H Action Group is caring for four people readjusting to daily living, in a home of their own, after 25 years in a psychiatric hospital. Members also help with a PHAB Group at the Vauxhall Centre in Norwich.

Dereham women's branch has collected well over 100 books of Green Shield Stamps for a Chairmobile and organised a 'Look-in' campaign for lonely people.

Used spectacles continue to flow to North Walsham men's branch. Members have now sorted and dispatched nearly 100,000 pairs to India, Africa and other deprived areas of the world.



In December Leicester District acquired a new 'home' at 22 Princess Road, purchased by HQ with some of the proceeds from the sale of Mark XI, and is eagerly accepting this challenge to widen involvement in Leicester.

Following the continued success of the Children's Camps at West Pinchbeck, the branch has sought other avenues of involvement in the community and now runs a thriving youth club in its branch room.

In co-operation with the local Scouts, Stamford was again able to give children from the Social Services in Peterborough a week under canvas at Shacklewell, financially backed by Rotary and Round Table.

Stamford branch has also undertaken the responsibility of setting up a hostel for unmarried mothers in co-operation with the Social Services and plans to maintain a continuing contact with the residents.

The latest involvement of members in Peterborough, arising from the Easter week-end project, is with Gingerbread and the needs of some 3,000 one-parent families in the city.

A fitting conclusion to the year under review was the visit on Maundy Thursday of HM the Queen to Peterborough Cathedral for the distribution of Maundy money, when Peterborough members opened their pleasant meeting room over the archway to the Cathedral close for the much appreciated entertainment of the many chauffeurs and police.

A derelict cottage serves as branch room for Ely Toc H. Every week from Christmas to Easter the four members chop and deliver wood to elderly residents. Woodmen: Fred Richardson (foreground) and Monty Brown
Photo: Peter Cook



North Wales and North West Region



The acceptance by the Central Executive of the Port Penrhyn scheme as a National Centre and as one of the two Jubilee Projects is the culmination of many years' search in North Wales. Its launching and development will be priority tasks in this Region, and we look forward to introducing many members and friends in the Movement and outside to this exciting new venture—a centre for recreation of mind and body among the mountains and waters of North Wales.

The two holiday schemes at Pentrefelin and Ulverston were again successful in giving a much needed holiday to children from Liverpool. Young members from East Lancs District enjoyed their time with the 'Dalton Disaster', a drama and theatre scheme for young people. A two-week conservation project in Lancashire brought together young men and women who are at present members of the Common Market. It worked well.

Adlington Camp in Cheshire again gave holidays to children from various parts of

the country and was the site of an experiment with adults organised by the Social Services department in Slough.

Weirside in the Langdale Valley is still fully booked by parties of 12, young and old, who wish to answer the challenge of the fells and mountains of the Lake District. More and more Toc H parties are using the Centre.

The Rhyl Centre was as usual in much demand. Well over 1,000 children from Belfast and elsewhere were given holidays. Hospitals continue to use this Centre as an important part of their work with adults.

An extension to the premises was added this year costing £7,000. All of this money will be raised by the Rhyl branches with help from Manchester and Crewe. This effort is to be highly commended. Through this work hundreds of children met Toc H, as did hundreds of young volunteers from many parts of the world. We would be foolish not to develop this facet of our work.

The Hospital Broadcast Society in Manchester has just installed 12 sets of headphones in the ground of Manchester United so that the blind supporters can be in on the game.

Toc H Rugby Clubs ran a successful 'Sevens Tournament', the money going to the Manchester Children's Camp.

Mark IV, Manchester, continues to operate successfully and is a centre of much activity in the Movement.

Gladstone House, Liverpool, has its continuing problems, and its future role is receiving attention. The views of the Marks Commission are awaited before any positive decision is made.

Thought is being given to the essential training of Central Councillors and District Executive Committee officers to facilitate the smooth transition to the new system and the successful development of the new pattern. The roles of the office-bearers are challenging and in somewhat uncharted fields; exchange of experience and the framing of guidelines will standardise and foster efficient organisation.

A Regional Directory and Diary is being prepared and revised; newsletters from Districts are being established. It is felt that more public relations work is essential, especially in putting over to the general public how the Movement is actively pursuing its objectives in the field of service and related activities. We hope also to better the communications between the Region and HQ.

To date, two of our four areas in the Region have increased their giving to the Family Purse, and we are hopeful that all will reach the target next year. Members are now fully aware that all monies raised in the Region will be spent in the Region.

We have 110 branches in the Region. Two branches have been lost during this year, two branches have become joint, and one branch is in question. The membership is 1,450 and a number of members have moved out of the Region, so our loss is someone else's gain. We have one new group at Harlech and two others on the way.

There are 15 Districts and 13 Central Councillors; all but two of the Districts have set up a District Executive Committee. The Regional Council has met twice this year and the Regional Executive has met five times.

Staffing is still a problem; for most of this

year we have had three staff, and we welcome Frank Rice to increase the team. He will be working in Merseyside. Three further members of staff in the Region would make our impact great—there is ample room for development.

Peth Davidson Whitfield, who retired from the staff last year, is as active as ever and has taken over the Birthday Scheme for the whole Movement. Greatly missed are Padres John Jones and Dick Whittington; their influence throughout the Movement was profound and inspiring.

Future plans

1. Cohesion of the Region into an entity, giving it character and making it a front-runner among present-day organisations.
2. The nurturing of District Executive Committees, so that they see their place in the new administration and set high standards to aim at in the coming decade.
3. The full and adequate training of all lay leaders and the encouragement of progressive and regular training programmes for all members in the field.
4. The search for and subsequent appointment of new staff to ensure an effective team, provide stimulus to members in the field and seek out new challenges and courses befitting a Movement of frontiersmen; there is no doubt that members would respond to positive challenge and strong leadership.
5. To ensure that costs in these inflationary days are kept to a minimum and to explore new means of financing essential expenditure so that the Region endeavours to pay its way.

The mini-coach 'Peth' is already widening our circle of friends and bringing us into contact with many new sources of work, and so far has not cost the Region or the Family any money. It can be done—can we do more?

Scottish Region



A successful playscheme in Dumbarton led to the formation of two new groups of young people, one in Dumbarton itself, the other in Bonnyrigg, near Edinburgh. The Dumbarton playscheme will be repeated this summer and the Bonnyrigg group will be running its own local playscheme.

Within a few months of moving to Eyemouth, Jimmy Campbell succeeded in forming a new group, several of whose members will be taking part in this summer's projects programmes. The group has a regular attendance of more than 25.

Oakley branch, in the Ochils District, was down to three members. A sustained and wide-ranging publicity campaign has now brought the branch 17 new members—an encouraging example of how an apparently dying branch can rejuvenate itself.

In addition to the Dumbarton playscheme, summer projects included the

holiday for the physically handicapped, planned and financed by the Edinburgh group; and manual work in Stornoway, a project which maintains our link with the Outer Isles. Scottish members also had the opportunity once again of visiting Poperinge. This trip seems to have become a regular feature of Scotland's annual programme.

The new Regional Executive has decided that most of staff time should be devoted to extending the Movement, and plans are being made to build new branches in Fife. A number of encouraging contacts have already been made.

The examples of new growth given here are comparatively few, but they show what can be done, and we hope they will be followed in many more places during the coming year.

The Dumbarton summer playscheme was voted a great success not only by the children but also by the volunteers, who have since formed two new groups



Southern Region



Our most immediate hopes for extension are in Basingstoke. The attempt to build Toc H there will start with a playscheme but go on to community involvement at all levels. The planned playscheme is a development from last year's camp for children from Basingstoke, held at Aldermaston, and is an indication of the strength the Region gained by the re-drawing of regional boundaries which brought two lively Districts from the SE. Children's camps were also new on the Isle of Wight and in the Channel Islands.

The first few meetings of the Regional Executive were concerned with the long-standing problems of Mark V, and the Regional Executive Committee eventually decided to recommend its closure.

We believe new life can come to the Southampton area if we develop a wider relationship with the community. We consider it exciting that Gingerbread has taken a licence on the Mark for the use of one-parent families, and joint efforts will be made to show that Toc H cares.

The implementation of *Action for the Seventies* through District Executive Committees is, generally, being tackled animatedly, and we hope that the signs of rebirth are omens for a wider outlook throughout the Region.

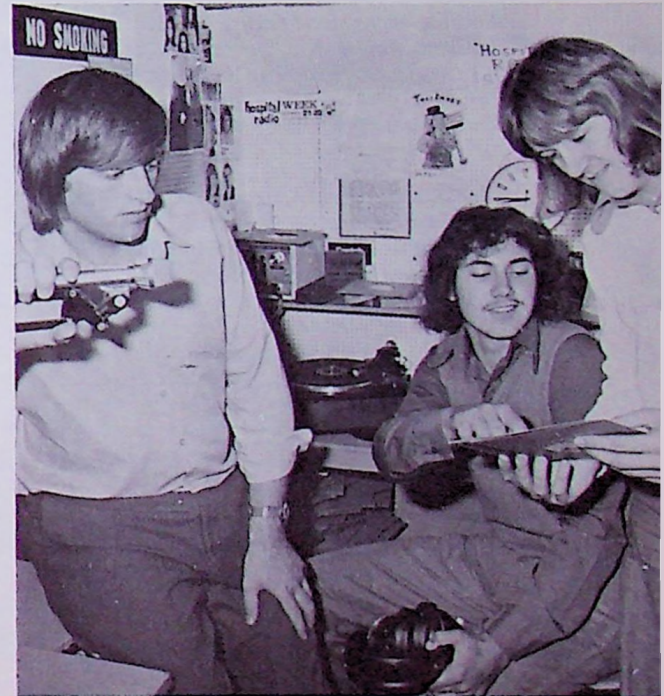
We have a fairly reliable census of members of District Branches, and there is news of at least one District Branch renewing contact with a number of members who had lapsed.

One should not link progress, or lack of it, with staff changes, but they need to be mentioned. We shall be sorry to lose Crispin White when he moves to Peterborough, but are looking forward to the arrival of Bob Knight. We are still seeking a fourth member of staff.

We believe that our membership appreciates more that their efforts are complementary to the work of staff, and therefore visits must be related to new plans or the development of existing plans. Councillors, by acting as a link of communication, can ensure that staff and members are involved together in any new work, so that their expert knowledge and capabilities can be pooled. There is some evidence that this is happening in practice, and on this co-operation hang our hopes for the future.

The tramps' supper held by Earley branch, Berkshire, brought in 150 Toc H strays from the neighbourhood. Dancing and community singing ensured a good evening
Photo: *Reading Chronicle*

Hospital Radio Swindon, pioneered by Toc H, celebrated its 21st anniversary. Started by members in Mark XVI who ran football commentaries, it now transmits local news music, serials, sport and outside broadcasts
Photo: *Wiltshire Newspapers*



North Eastern Region



Talbot House, Newcastle, an intermediate treatment centre for disturbed children, opened in December. It is important not only in the north but to Toc H as a whole—showing that the Movement can still pioneer new ways of caring.

The Huddersfield Community Care and Concern Centre opened on 7 April 1975. This ambitious project, initiated by Bill Bains, not only surprised some members by their own achievements but also involved people outside Toc H and aroused more public interest than anything for many years. The raising of well over £500 to help finance this project in one District alone is indicative of what can be done given the challenge and determination.

In October the success of the Selby Festival surely repaid Tommy Asquith and his colleagues for their efforts and Gilbert Francis for his journey north.

The Alnmouth Camp again had a full house—even attracting Crispin White

there for the experiment 'Through the Eye of a Camera'. What developed there is anybody's guess! The scope for future activities has been widened by Jimmy Savile's gift of two caravans.

With full bookings Colsterdale has again proved its value: the extension is now completed and a long-term volunteer sought for the coming year. The Open Day in June gave neighbours of Colsterdale the opportunity to visit the house; the Earl of Swinton was there, and on this occasion a plaque, carved by Jack Hoyle of Pollington to the memory of Bob Purdy, was unveiled by Bob's son, Kingsley.

The house was the venue of many projects, including South Yorkshire District with the Sheffield Probation Service; Ouse and Hull had a week-end with mentally handicapped adolescents; Darlington District provided a holiday for deprived children; and the two Keighley branches ran their own project with single-parent families. Leeds District provided a holiday for mentally handicapped adults from Rutland Lodge, where a garden party had been held to raise the necessary funds.

The Wolds District playscheme at Scarborough, led by Richard Jackson, proved a great success, and plans are being made for a 1975 repeat.

Northern Light, the Regional magazine, has proved to be an enormous success: great credit is due to Tommy Asquith for his editorship.

The emphasis of the Regional Council and Executive has been, and continues to be, on extension. In the North East progress has been made at Durham, Ryton, Throston and Evenwood. There

are also the South Tees Group, the Ayresome Group, which sprang from the Ayresome Neighbourhood Scheme, and the Teesside District Branch which is now meeting.

Although Knottingley did not work out, there is a new group at Pontefract, and Doncaster earned its lamp in April. Shipley branch closed, as has Netherton & South Crosland. The Deighton & Sheepridge group is meeting difficulties, but is hoping that the Community Care and Concern Project will help locally.

Bramley branch has formed its own Youth Action group, and Richard Jackson is involved with a group from the Sheffield Polytechnic who take probation

TV personality Jimmy Tarbuck joins in the Scarborough playscheme
Photo: Dennis Dobson



children swimming. It has already financed and taken children to Colsterdale and hopes to repeat this, with South Yorkshire District, for another week. One of the group has become a District Branch member and it is hoped that others may follow.

Bill Bains is already exploring the possibilities at Selby, particularly in view of the coal-mining development planned there.

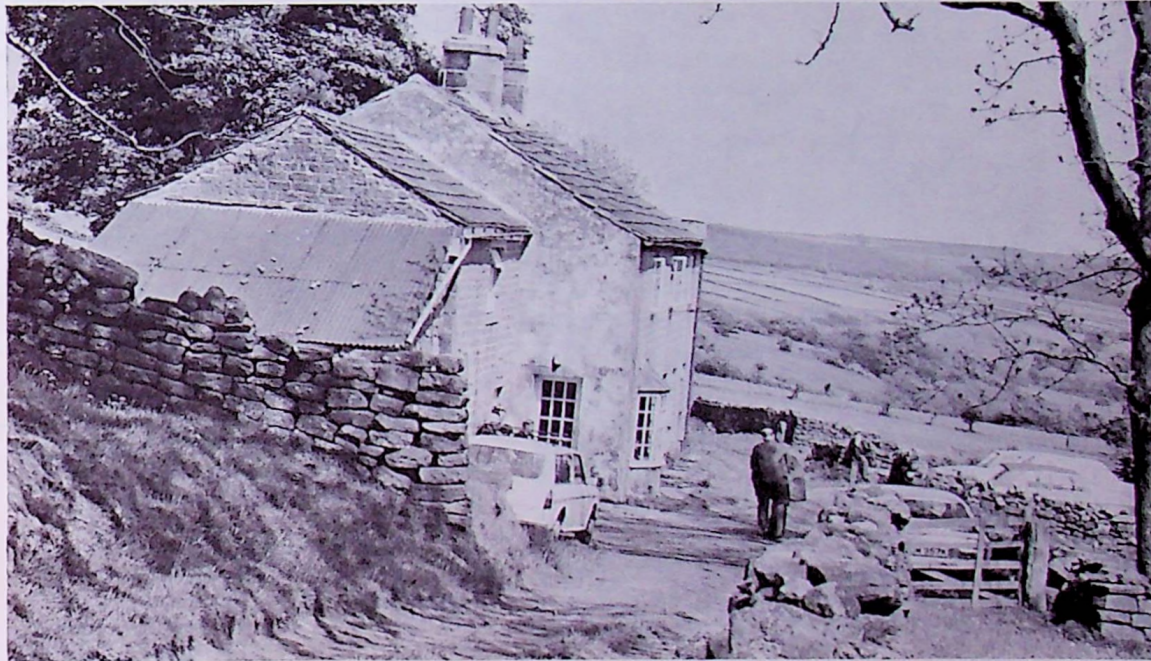
The decision to appoint two new staff as originally agreed, one to work with the Ecumenical Group on Teesside and one in Yorkshire, was reviewed in the light of inflationary problems. The decision to go ahead as planned was not taken lightly or recklessly, but accepting a risk and in the certain knowledge that if Toc H is to survive and pass on its message it must move *now*.

One of the objects of regionalisation was to encourage new leadership from the membership—people with an imaginative and flexible approach. This hope has yet to be fulfilled, particularly so far as finding new Central Councillors is concerned, but there is promise for the future.

Extra staff alone is not sufficient, but a membership with a sincere belief in the future of Toc H and all it means must support it to *build bravely* and go forward in the faith that Toc H is still God's Will. We feel that the contents of this report fully justify the Region's faith.

This plaque commemorating Bob Purdy was unveiled by his son, Kingsley (seen above), at the Colsterdale Open Day in June

The Toc H centre at Colsterdale, on the North Yorkshire moors
Photos: Bob Broeder



South Eastern Region



The South Eastern Region of Toc H contains some 3,000 members grouped into a little over 200 branches and 26 Districts. It also contains six residential houses, five of them known by their traditional title of 'Marks' and one, 'Talbot House', operating under the Wakefield Trust with a member of the Regional staff as Warden; plus one residential centre at Croydon.

The changes in the administrative pattern during the past 12 months have led many long-serving and loyal members to conclude that they are no longer sufficiently imbued with youth and vigour to do justice to the practical rebuilding and development of Toc H. This is an honest assessment of both capability and needs. Such faithful servants have earned the gratitude of the Movement and of those whose lives they have influenced. It has meant, however, that a number of branches and Districts have closed or amalgamated. The combining of some Districts has proved very successful, releasing one set of officers for other work,

but there is now a very real prospect of some branches becoming lone units.

There can be no doubt that the old form of District Team was breaking down in many places, not only because of lack of officers but also because of the increasing cost and difficulty of travel. Many branches are also feeling the pinch from escalating rates and other costs.

Most of the Marks have had another difficult year. The shortage of domestic staff seems to get worse, and inflation has overtaken increased charges at almost quarterly intervals in some cases. Sincere tribute is due to Mark Management Committees for coping so well and for establishing good relations with their Marksmen, very few of whom have quibbled over the necessity for higher rates.

One Marksman writes: 'May I express my gratitude to Toc H members who have supported the Marks and so provided not only a roof over our heads but also an opportunity to create a place of friendship in an often lonely city.' He comments that 'now we have a representative of nearly every continent of the world', and adds that he would like to see everybody give up one day a fortnight to a Toc H project, 'the only way to keep Toc H alive in the district where we live'.

A new venture at Talbot House has attracted a lot of people, including Marksmen, to its twice-monthly gatherings, and there is a new branch on the way at Tower Hill with 12 new members who have joined Toc H since becoming resident at Talbot House. The Bengali hostel next door, run entirely by the residents themselves on a self-governing basis with no staff or catering commitment, continues to flourish and so does

Time for a cuppa while two volunteers carry on decorating. This was part of the Slough Voluntary Service scheme in which Toc H played a large part
Photo: *Slough Observer*



the work with the Bengali community in the East End.

The community work and involvement at Hackney, centred upon Prideaux House, grows no less and a major development has begun there in the shape of a new youth centre, with the help of a substantial grant from the Inner London Education Authority and a loan from Toc H itself which will be repaid by a local appeal for £15,000.

One of the significant experimental events of the year was a training week-end for volunteers held at Mark XX, Putney, in which a number of Marksmen participated. Similar week-ends for project leaders at Dor Knap and Warden Manor were notable for membership participation, and the Springfields District camp at Dibgate was very much a combined operation. The Week-end Project Group in Kent is beginning to work with the branches, notably on 'Mini-handi' dances, and is likely to produce some members itself before long.

The bridging process between traditional Toc H and the younger generation has been furthered by three developments. The wedding of the Regional Newsletter and the Volunteers' Newsletter was very successful. After an experimental free issue to all branches substantial orders have been received for further issues. The new publication, *Keeping in TOnCH*, manages to combine exuberance and education in a form palatable to both sides—who are finding they had more in common than they thought!

A similar discovery, with both sides enjoying the evening, has resulted from branches accepting the offer of volunteers to go and talk of their experiences on and in leading projects. And the advent of the

District Branch is beginning to ease the way into membership for volunteers. They now realise that they can become members without having to join a traditional branch, with which they probably have no affinity, and through their voice and vote make their influence felt to the benefit of all.

On the other hand, one very senior branch has successfully invited its local volunteer group to effect a merger and provide some officers. In at least two places there are now junior groups under the wing of regular branches. The Regional Executive is planning a new Inner London District, with a member of staff specially allocated to it, designed to bring together four distinct elements, the London Marks, seven traditional branches, a thriving projects group and a large number of formerly unattached members. This should go far to restore Toc H in London.

Development Teams or Action Groups have been formed in several places and are producing some interesting variations on the familiar patterns. Some have ambitious programmes ahead; some are feeling their way slowly. There is still much goodwill for Toc H and, despite the financial pressures, it is amazing how many minibuses, coaches and other expensive tools for the job have materialised. The Springfields District Development Team confidently looks forward to financing its costly project programme from a target £2,000 to be raised by a sponsored swim at the Crystal Palace. They, at least, are clear that faith precedes finance, not the reverse.

The Regional Executive sees the new administrative pattern not as a reshuffle but as a liberating exercise. It is now essential that the spirit of Toc H rather than its organisation be the first con-

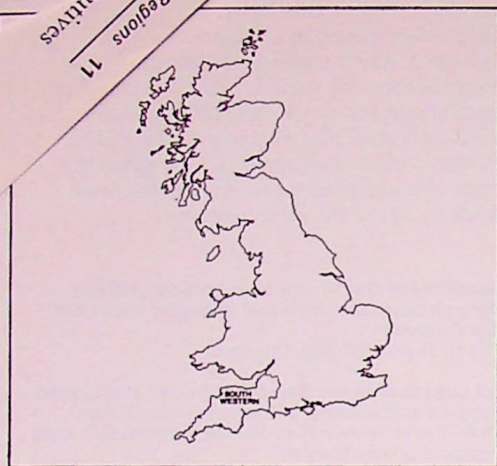
sideration and that the District Executive see their role in this light. Councillors have a key place in this, and it is planned to hold a day's training conference for them before the year is out. A week-end conference for the Regional Executive itself and staff has already taken place. There is clear evidence of new growth from the old plant, and the gardeners need to agree on its treatment.

Facelift for Seaford's promenade railings.
Branch members offered to paint them for the Council
Photo: *Evening Argus*, Brighton

All together now! Toc H clubs for the handicapped and elderly in Hackney staged an Olde Tyme Music Hall for St Valentine's Day
Photo: *Hackney Gazette*



South Eastern Region



Extension has been adopted as the first priority by the newly formed Regional Council and Executive in the South West. Five working parties have been set up to cover the whole of a wide-ranging Region and to explore all aspects and possibilities of extension. Already as a result three possible action points, at Castle Cary, Torrington and Yatton, have been identified.

Some existing Districts badly need the tonic of extension if they are to become viable and live units. There are many large areas in this Region where active membership no longer exists. The Regional Council is determined to change this.

A Training Working Party has been set up which has already formed a 'panel' of speakers from within the membership to lead discussion groups and encourage a wider and more informed knowledge of the Movement by all branch members. A circular with suggestions for improving

branch programmes has also been sent to all branches in the Region.

This outgoing by the Council members appears to have instilled confidence in branches and Districts. In spite of early consternation and doubt in some quarters, District Executives have been elected all over the Region, with the minimum of difficulty in most Districts. The results have been exciting and encouraging. In many cases a number of members have come forward to accept and attempt leadership for the first time. Such willingness to 'have a go' shows an over-all desire to move forward in step with the accepted principles of *Action for the Seventies*. The challenge of change is being generally met over a wide area in a manner not really anticipated just a year ago.

A more compact and streamlined programme of projects was arranged this year. We are conscious of the problem of securing competent and suitable leaders for projects, and two residential training week-ends for leaders were held. Here leaders and potential leaders received the experience of living together and, in the background of fellowship and discussion, a much fuller knowledge of what Toc H is about. At the same time the problems and responsibilities of leadership have been the main theme. The policy has been to programme only projects which could be efficiently led and which were well backed up by the membership at branch or District level. Only thus do we envisage a mixture of persons living together in a happy atmosphere of fellowship and service within the orbit of the Family of Toc H.

Playschemes, children's camps and sea-side holidays, a holiday for the blind, and work with the physically and mentally handicapped have all been successfully

carried out. In addition, 'The Dorset Coast in Sight and Sound', a residential educational project, was again most successful, giving a number of people the valuable experience of making new friends in ideal surroundings. Another educational project, 'What Made the Earth?', was also highly successful and brought together a group of people aged from 17 to 70.

Torquay branch headquarters at Adam's House continues to be used as an excellent witness to the 'caring' of the Movement. A number of one-parent and other needy families received the holiday of their lives. Perranporth chalet on the North Cornwall coast also continues to be used in a similar way.

Our 'retired' friend, Alice Welford, has again continued with the organisation of the Jersey holiday project. Under this scheme branches and groups give what they can afford to finance a holiday for a fully disabled person and escort to fly to Jersey for a wonderful holiday in a specially fitted hotel.

In addition, Alice plays an active part in the organisation of the Exeter Lunch Club, where people of all ages and nationalities meet regularly to eat and share fellowship together.

Peter Pedrick, a local member, retired from full-time service with LEPRa this year, but not before persuading many branches to make a special effort in LEPRa's Jubilee Year. Chard branch came up with the marvellous sum of over £300.

Just a week after the end of the year under review the Diamond Jubilee of the Movement was celebrated by a very wide cross-section of the membership, including

Bristol Action Group, a thriving and active grouping of young members; also a number of District members and builders.

The day-long Festival in early April attracted well over 500 members and friends from Bristol and East Dorset to West Cornwall, and was held in the University of Exeter, preceded by a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication in Exeter Cathedral. The preacher in the Cathedral was the Rev Kenneth Bloxham, who was at one time South-Western Area Padre. Fleets of buses returned the crowd to the University where, after tea, Lord Harding gave an excellent talk on 'leadership'.

We were joined by the Mayor of Exeter for dinner, and he stayed to witness the excellent pageant of 'Sixty Years of Toc H in the South West' which followed.

There have been a number of other successful gatherings of Regional membership, including another very successful and memorable week-end at a Babba-combe hotel in the autumn; this brought together 200 members and friends.

The continued lack of staff for the Plymouth and Cornwall area has been a matter of concern and has added to the burden carried by the existing staff. The arrival of Trevor Sizer in September 1975 will be very welcome and will open up new opportunities of growth in the far South West. A special word of appreciation is due to Harry Olver, who retired this year after five years of most effective 'part-time' service.

Volunteers act as eyes for blind members of Toc H during a holiday at Almondsbury, near Bristol
Photos: Paul Christie



West Midlands & South Wales Region

The formation of the West Midlands and South Wales Region from parts of two former Regions has meant that the first 12 months of its life have been a 'getting-to-know-you' operation. Industrial Birmingham, rural Lampeter, coastal South Wales, and the peaceful Cotswolds create a real mixture which in the Toc H melting-pot should provide quite a mouthful! Since last September we have lost the services of Hilary Geater and Alan Guy from the staff but have been delighted to welcome the return of John Mitchell, now living in Ross-on-Wye. The redoubtable George Lee, of course, remains based on Birmingham.

During the year the Regional Executive embarked on an exciting new experiment concerning industry and the community. Not in industrial relations, which is a complex field, but more in exploring the wide question of the effect of industrial development and specific industrial decisions on the lives of the ordinary people and families who constitute the neighbouring community. As a result, a pilot

project has been launched in Stroud—a town chosen because of its combination of industries and its nucleus of Toc H members interested in the idea. Local schools with sixth forms are being invited to undertake the detailed research, and indications are that there will be a favourable response. The long-term aims of the project are to help industrialists to realise the ways in which boardroom decisions affect people's lives, and to help the young people concerned to learn more about how industry works and how decisions are reached. Toc H will be providing the meeting point between them.

The £7,500 loan from Central funds that allowed the purchase of the Centre in Cardiff has now been repaid by the Cardiff District. This has freed the local membership to give greater emphasis to developing Toc H in the building, and already it is a healthy, viable scheme, providing a base for two branches, the District, and Toc H activities such as a Tufty Club, Jigsaw Library, a variety of projects and project work, old folk's outings and entertainment, jumble sales, bazaars, and 'special events'. Many other organisations, including unions and political parties, social and cultural groups, and various charities, use the building. Friendship Unlimited, an offshoot of the local Mental Health Association, provides fellowship and a helping hand to the lonely at its twice-weekly club nights. Several hundred people regularly use the Centre and an ambitious Toc H publicity programme, aimed at Centre users and financed by Regional funds, is being prepared. New wardens, Chris and Linda Webb, moved in last December and are now contributing greatly to the effectiveness of the enterprise.

At the other side of the Region, the Wulfrun District has, for some 15 years,

been running a holiday scheme at Aberarth, Cardiganshire, for underprivileged children from Wolverhampton. This year some 60 boys and girls aged 8 to 12 years and recommended by social workers, teachers and Toc H members will spend a week at the seaside, being accommodated in a small school. The school buildings, together with tents and marquees for the helpers, provide a base for the children to explore the countryside with the help of local farmers, students and Toc H members, and in inclement weather to house indoor activities. A feature of the project is the genuine local interest it engenders, while the generous gifts for the children's welfare made by local bodies such as the Anglo-Welsh Society contribute to the success of the scheme. The £500 that the project costs is raised by gifts from West Midlands firms and organisations, together with flag days and other fund-raising efforts in the Wulfrun District.

The Toc H Birmingham Outward Group, re-formed in 1973, continues in strength. Operating from Mark VI, having built up a first-class store of equipment, it purchased its own vehicle, and with a first-class band of voluntary helpers, each an expert in his own field, the Group now organises some 16 week-ends, four long week-ends, and four full-week courses, using Weirside, Mid-Wales, the Peak District and Shropshire for its expeditions.

Each party consists of three leaders and nine lads (recommended by the Social Services, Probation Service, Dr Barnardo's, Assessment Centres, etc) and includes in its programme rock-climbing, fell-walking, canoeing, swimming, and pot-holing.

Each lad is visited in his own home before and after his course, and a follow-up scheme is under way. The hallmarks of

the Group remain enthusiasm, co-operation, expertise, and a sense of fun and caring, whilst its future development is assured by the demands and the co-operation received from so many agencies.

Administratively, the Regional Executive Committee has set up a Projects Sub-Committee and a Finance Sub-Committee. Through the work of the newly elected District Executive Committees it looks forward in the coming year to greater experimentation in new expression of Toc H, together with the revitalising and strengthening of the existing branches.

Several branches collect unwanted glasses to send to underdeveloped countries. Members of Llanllwch branch, Carmarthen, ran a very successful appeal for Bangladesh

Photo: *Western Mail & Echo*



At the Centre

Staff

In terms of recruitment this has been one of the leaner years, as there were only two additions to the staff, both in the second half of the year. Frank Rice joined the North Wales and North West Regional staff to be based on Merseyside, and Jane Whitmore joined the South Eastern Regional staff, to work from Crutched Friars. John Mitchell rejoined the staff after completing his one-year course at Birmingham University, and was posted to the West Midlands and South Wales Region, based on Ross-on-Wye.

Harry Mills joined the team as Marks and Properties Consultant based at Wendover.

On the debit side Hilary Geater and Ray Fabes both left to take up educational appointments, Alan Guy returned to Oxford to continue his studies, and Brian Griffin took up a Youth Service post in Surrey. Sir Alexander Giles completed his term of office and returned to his native Scotland, being succeeded as Director by Ken Prideaux-Brune. George

Liddle retired as Honorary Treasurer, and we welcomed in his place Gerry Ashfield, who has served the Finance Committee since June 1951. To all of these go our thanks for their past contribution to the life of the Movement, together with our good wishes for the future.

Public Relations

One of the most noticeable factors about work in the past year is the way the department has been extensively involved in small appeals organised by branches. Advice has been given on everything from flag days to sponsorship. Inflation, no doubt, is a prime cause, but it is also clear that self-financing projects and the larger issue of self-supporting Regions have contributed to this swing in emphasis. The shift to greater financial awareness at local level is a good one, and the belief that advice can be obtained from the Centre an understandable one, but the public relations staff have little experience of this vital work and it may be prudent for the Movement to examine this need more closely.

The tape series 'Topic on Tape' was launched and, after a hesitant start, has recruited some keen subscribers. Eighty branches take this service, but if the series is to continue for another year we will need many more subscribers. The cost of producing any audio/visual aid is very high.

A lot of work went into providing branches with information about emergency help systems. Several items of publicity were prepared; news stories were prepared and copies of the Loughton branch 8mm film *Emergency* were made available to interested branches. Schemes were started in some areas as a result of this service.

A new illustrated brochure about Toc H was produced, and an entirely fresh look at extension ideas was presented in the form of the Public Relations and Publicity Pack. This new look at local communications was written by PR staff with the help of some members and branches.

More help has been given in the year to branches seeking better relations with newspapers. Features were prepared in the office for a good assortment of publications: principally *Social Services*, *Social Worker* and *Welfare Officer* reaching the statutory worker; *The Dalesman* and Yorkshire Dales newspapers to assist with the Open Day at Colsterdale; several youth newspapers; and a campaign to announce the appointment of the new Director, including a few radio interviews. The latter also included space in the religious press.

Jimmy Savile kindly gave us several tape-recorded greetings for mini-handi dances held in the year and a 'plug' for the Summer Programme on BBC Radio 1.

Jubilee preparations brought much extra work, and a new range of the popular paper sticker badges, metal world-symbol membership badges and illustrated posters were introduced. With the help of Alan Daniels we also achieved a Toc H entry in the 1975 Blackpool illuminations.

With prices for all forms of printing and allied work rising steeply, the wisdom of investing in small offset plant at Headquarters becomes apparent. The demand for this service has almost doubled in a year, with over 1,000 jobs being undertaken. The signs are that the Movement is becoming more confident and relaxed in its approach to local publicity. Typical examples are the high quality of some of the regional bulletins and posters being

printed. This is encouraging.

A departure from the old central committee structure has made possible a Public Relations Advisory Group which includes among its number three consultants. They are G D (Bob) Gregory, Public Relations Officer for the Metropolitan Police; John Graham, independent consultant; and Geoff Bricher, director of Credo Consultants. We are indebted to them for their willingness to assist Toc H in this way.

The group has already begun its examination of policy and national communication structure with a view to preparing some proposals on public relations for 1976.

'Point Three'

Sue McWilliam, the new editor, has quickly stamped her personality on our monthly magazine. The noticeable increase in the number of contributions received from members is both a tribute and an encouragement to her. We welcome the growth in the team of *Point Three* correspondents.

Winant and Clayton Volunteers

There were new placements for American Winant Volunteers in 1974 in Swindon, Wolverhampton and Woolwich, all of them arranged through former Clayton Volunteers.

Five of the 27 Clayton Volunteers who

went to America in 1974 had had previous contact with Toc H through the projects programme. One, Richard Green, joined the Mid-Eastern Region as a long-term volunteer on his return.

The financing of this exchange programme has been a major worry, due to the enormous increases in air fares. The

A new approach to publicity: Toc H staged an impressive exhibition in the car show-rooms of Paul Huxford Ltd, Fareham, Hants, for a week last October. The company generously held a reception for Toc H and invited its top executives and 200 customers. Below: Mr Paul Huxford (left) and his wife, with Gilbert Francis and Crispin White



encouraging response to an appeal to former Clayton Volunteers is an indication of the value of the programme to those who take part, but additional sources of funds must be found if the future is to be secure. Attempts are being made to find local sponsorship for individual volunteers, and Toc H branches are being encouraged to help with this.

Appeals: Tubby Clayton Fund

By the end of the year contributions to the Tubby Clayton Fund had exceeded £30,500, including many generous gifts made in answer to an appeal to the City by Sir Eric Drake of British Petroleum.

A number of grants were made by the Trustees out of the income received from the invested funds. They continue to invite applications for grants which can be made within the terms of the Trust.

Bordon Company

Increasing interest is being taken by younger and older members of Toc H in exploring the life of the Spirit, which is the foundation of all our activity.

At the World Chain of Light in December a Vigil was sustained at six centres, and to encourage this development the handbook *A Birthday Vigil*, last published in 1965, is being brought up to date for December 1975.

The Palm Sunday Quiet Week-end was led by Dr Martin Israel and in consequence attracted a full house at Dor Knap. Extracts from his addresses have been published as Bordon Company letters.

The Old House

Parties to Poperinge were fewer and smaller than in the previous year, but there was an increase in the number of

casual bookings, bringing the total number of 'bed-nights' up to 885, compared with 930 the previous year. Thanks to the hard work of our chapel warden, the Rev 'Polly' Perkins, Ruby Relf and Elsa Perrin, the side and main altar frontal and hangings have been completely renewed, great care having been taken to match the originals as closely as possible. A tribute to Tubby has been written in four languages and will be hung alongside the Founder Padre's photograph in the Chaplain's Room. The Central Executive Committee approved grants of £900 to the Old House funds during the year, £600 being used to redecorate the 'slessorium' and £300 to cover the warden's expenses. The façade and roof of the Old House have now been classified as a monument by the Belgian Government.

Alison House

Alison House was very fully booked throughout the year, the total number of 'bed-nights' being just short of 5,000. Unfortunately, however, only 41 per cent of the bookings were for Toc H parties or for Toc H sponsored projects such as holidays for old people and the physically handicapped. It is hoped that the membership will in future make fuller use of its own comfortable and well-appointed conference centre, set in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside.

A number of organisations met regularly at the House during the year for one-day conferences, including the Derby Diocesan Council of Education, the Bishop of Repton's Post-ordination Training Courses, the YMCA National College, and the Derbyshire Girl Guides' Association. The Arkwright Society also held its lectures at Alison House during the winter.

A great deal of work is needed to keep the extensive grounds tidy, and several neighbouring branches put in some very hard work, thinning out spinneys and pruning trees and shrubs during the autumn. Thanks to the work of Jack Turner, a useful supply of vegetables, especially tomatoes, was grown during the year.

The chapel is now available for use, and the altar cloth designed and embroidered by Mrs Freda Stoneman is now in position. We are grateful to Nottingham City branch for decorating the chapel.

The House was without a cook for a considerable period, and we are grateful to Wyn Howlett for the extra work she undertook during this period.

Alison House feels keenly the death of Kathleen Owen who, from the start, took an active part in all facets of the running of the House. Her Painting Weeks have become a regular feature of the summer, and this year's Week concluded with an impressive exhibition in the conference room.

Dor Knap

The completion of the bothy project providing additional showers and toilets has been the major achievement. Improvements have also been made to the 'Duck or Grouse' entrance and to the rear of the house for a total expenditure of about £2,500. The Friends of Dor Knap have contributed substantially to these costs, reducing the amount that must be passed on as increased rent to visitors. The committee is grateful for this generous support during an expensive year.

Bookings fell back in 1974, due mainly to cancelled bookings from Toc H parties. Tommy and Dorothy Trinder continue

to perform catering miracles, and through their devoted work domestic costs are kept to a minimum.

Active negotiations are now in hand for the renewal of the lease which would otherwise expire in 1980, and the committee is confident of a favourable outcome.

A grant from the Tubby Clayton Fund paid for a new minibus for 42 Trinity Square, London. Here, Sir James Brown, chairman of the trustees, christens the bus which will be used for coast and countryside outings
Photo: Bob Broeder



Services Work

BAOR

The economic situation in England affected the service Toc H gave to the Forces during the year. Because of industrial disputes and shortages of raw materials, deliveries of items for resale were sporadic. Prices have also soared until some goods proved uncompetitive with German items more readily available. Thus, while the turnover appears to be much higher, this is due to inflation; the actual volume of sales remains much the same as in the past. We have been led to believe that, because of the language barrier, we serve a closed community which prefers to buy from NAAFI or our CVWW clubs. But in 1974 we have seen a phenomenal growth in the German supermarket system which, by its impersonality which we normally deplore, has tended to break down the language barrier. Many more Forces families shop in these places where it is not necessary to say more than 'Danke'. While the supermarket may hit our sales, it is difficult not to welcome the additional contact, however minimal, between British and German Europeans!

Members should be aware of the difficult atmosphere in which our staff work. Although, thankfully, no incident has affected our clubs, bomb alerts have been plentiful as a result of terrorist threats; and our clubs are vulnerable, being, for the most part, outside the guarded perimeter. In such times our staff theme has been 'business and friendship as usual'.

At Berlin the newly furnished lounge has been well used, in particular by a local wives' club. A detailed study of the dispersed work centred on the Münster club has resulted in useful economies, and we hope that the planned club chapel will be well used. Improvements to the bathroom arrangements at Paderborn are in hand. Unfortunately, the work uncovered a dangerously weak floor, leading to closure of the gift-bookshop for over a month. Once again the playscheme at the Elson married quarter complex was a great success. The Verden club remains very popular and sponsored its own playscheme; the Army asks for a repeat in 1975. Refashioning of the chapel has been effected by the Warden. The chapel was the scene of an inspiring World Chain of Light service. Our work in the tiny Wolfenbüttel club continues to grow, and the families' tea room almost bursts at the seams at times.

We can report that there is a good relationship with the Garrison chaplains at every club. This is largely due to the leadership shown by our wardens who, we hope, find the job interesting enough to compensate for the responsibility which Toc H gladly delegates to them.

Towards the end of the year we heard the rumbles of rumour occasioned by the impending Defence Review. Details of how it will affect BAOR are as yet unknown. Economies are, however, the

order of the day. Toc H will play its part and strive to combat difficult times with increased efficiency, but should an impersonal service be demanded on the grounds of economy, then our reason for being in Forces work would vanish, for Christ could not smile on such work.

Talbot House, Southampton

Another successful year, during which the club celebrated its Golden Jubilee. This proved to be an outstanding event, attended by many guests, some of whom remembered the club from its inception.

The financial side of the club still causes a good deal of anxiety, but with practised economies and a re-examination of ways to increase our income, the Management Committee strikes a good balance.

It has been said for some years that the club no longer fulfils its original need. The days of the poor seafaring boys are over—indeed, they disappeared years ago. Yet now that the accommodation is used by the marine engineer cadets and the occasional seaboy, the use made of the club is actually greater in numbers than it has ever been. A need still exists, even if not the original one.

Talbot House remains, therefore, very much the same sort of place as it was 50 years ago—a place where young sailors can feel secure in homely surroundings and where assistance with personal or other problems can be had from the warden and staff. The only difference is the updating to meet the different circumstances of the 'Seventies.

Overseas

We had about 30 overseas visitors during 1974—a smaller number than in the previous year, possibly because more members were saving their visit until the 1975 Jubilee celebrations. Our special thanks to Ken and Mary Gandy from New Zealand, and to Graham and Margaret Ramsay from South Africa, who devoted so much of their time to sharing their experiences with Toc H groups here during their travels in England. During July, we were pleased to welcome a group of young people from Cleveland, Ohio, who participated in various Toc H projects in different parts of the country. Another group from the same organisation ('Torch') join us again during the summer of 1975.

America

In July, Wayne Kistner, a former Winant who worked for Toc H as a long-term volunteer in Birmingham, visited England and put forward his ideas for starting an organisation in California closely linked with Toc H. With the backing of the Central Executive Committee, 'Community Concern' has now been launched at Cypress College, California, with groups of volunteers taking part in weekend projects and regular group discussions known as 'Rap Groups'.

Australia

Toc H suffered a setback when David Viner resigned as youth worker in South Australia after a trial period. However, they have now appointed Peter Hall, aged 21 years, who is the son of a Toc H member and has been connected with youth work for the past seven years. November 23 saw the official opening of Coungeau House, the Bribie Island Holiday Home. In 1967 Brisbane branch decided to embark on this project, and the results achieved reflect great credit upon the members of Brisbane, Bribie Island and Western Suburbs branches, comprising the Holiday Home Committee. Coungeau House is expected to become a popular holiday venue for parties of pensioners and civilian widows, and is also used extensively for meetings and functions. Most of the States have Toc H film units, and two Western Australian branches run mobile libraries for hospital patients and housebound folk. The flashing light project is growing rapidly, with more than 3,000 installed throughout the country.

New Zealand

1974 was a very significant year for Toc H. Ken Ward's appointment as full-time

development officer has resulted in exciting signs that Toc H in Christchurch is beginning to 'come alive' again. In November, the lamp and rushlight were presented to two new extensions of Toc H in Christchurch—the Papanui branch and Burnside High School group. Recent activities in the city include a mini-handi, a playschool for mentally handicapped children, and a door-to-door publicity campaign. The flashing light project has now reached New Zealand, where it has changed its name to 'Lightline'. Started by Toc H in Tawa, on the outskirts of Wellington, 'Lightline' has now been launched in Christchurch.

India

The second Annual Meeting of the India Council was held at Cochin in October, combined with a 'Family get-together' with members representing most of India's 16 branches travelling long distances to attend. Delegates were taken to see the relief settlement, which Toc H Cochin has persuaded the corporation to establish, to provide homes for beggars.

Toc H India has asked for financial help from Toc H in England to build a health and welfare centre in a South Indian hamlet, Pannikampatti, around which there is a population of 25,000 and where no medical facilities of any kind are available. Members of Chola District, and Trichy branch in particular, will be involved in this comprehensive health scheme as it develops.

Rhodesia

John Bowman, a Yorkshireman who emigrated to Rhodesia in 1959, was appointed National Chairman in May. John, who is Head of the Civil Engineering section of Bulawayo Technical Train-

ing College, succeeds Mrs Ernan MacLean, who has given strong and constructive guidance to the Movement in Rhodesia for the past three years. Ernan has now accepted the duties of Extension Officer for the Northern Area. Members are very involved in working with elderly people, and run a Senior Citizens' Day Club in Bulawayo which is open every weekday, with activities ranging from play-reading to 'knitting for the troops'. Salisbury New group is arranging social afternoons and outings for young divorcees and their children. Current projects include the provision of hurricane lamps for use in African community halls in rural areas, the opening of a coffee bar serving tea and sandwiches to the troops at Gwelo, and clubs for African girl school-leavers, where they are taught sewing, cookery and English.

South Africa

During the year, extension continued amongst the African communities, under the able leadership of Ben Motswenyane, and in May, Mt Frere branch was host to 138 African members and potential members. The purpose of the get-together was to enable members to meet and get to know each other individually, and to look at the principles of Toc H in relation to the customary way of life of the African. The Golden Jubilee project of Toc H Southern Africa—the building of a Toc H Centre in the African township of Soweto—is arousing great interest, both in official quarters and among the public. The Centre will be a base for an elementary skill training scheme, for conferences and recreation, and will also provide accommodation for young, single, professional men. The Toc H gift shops have been making very good progress and support work with the aged, child welfare and

meals on wheels. The National Council was held in September, at Port Elizabeth, when the courageous decision was made to de-register as a welfare organisation because of the conflict between the broad objects of Toc H and the restrictive requirements of the Welfare Act. The beginning of Golden Jubilee Year was marked by a gathering of about 150 members for a thanksgiving service and a meal at Keiskammahoek in the Transkei, where the first branch was formed.

'Lone' branches

The two branches in **Chile** have had a very busy year, as they say 'so much help is needed in so many places'. Four new members were initiated in December. The three women's branches in **Argentina** have met regularly and also report 1974 as being 'a very busy and successful year'. Jobs are many, and include helping patients in three mental homes and rehabilitation centres, in the British Hospital, Mission to Seamen and in two children's orphanages. **Hong Kong** women's branch now have only four members, due to families returning to England and to other countries.

Paris women's branch has grown in numbers, and as well as its work with senior citizens it is planning to extend its activities to helping with handicapped children. **Khotsong** branch, Lesotho, is now a 'lone branch' in name only, having become much more closely linked with Toc H Southern Africa this year. In August, six of its members were warmly welcomed to Bloemfontein branch, where three new members for Lesotho were initiated. A new venture by this multi-racial branch has been a monthly cake stall, which has proved very popular and has enabled it to provide food parcels each month to needy folk. Lesotho branch, and also Umtali, are grateful to Paderborn Toc H Social Club, BAOR, for its gifts of money, which not only help their work but also make the members realise they are not alone, but part of a world-wide Family.

Toc H Southern Africa celebrated its Golden Jubilee in February, making a pilgrimage to its birthplace at Keiskammahoek. Black and white gathered at St Matthew's Mission Church, not 50 yards from the spot where the first branch started



The Accounts

Changes at the helm

At the Central Council, held in October 1974, we said farewell to George Liddle, who had served the Movement as Honorary Treasurer since 1967.

George will be remembered for steering us through integration, the sale of 15 Trinity Square and moving Headquarters to Wendover, and for all the great opportunities which these moves have opened up.

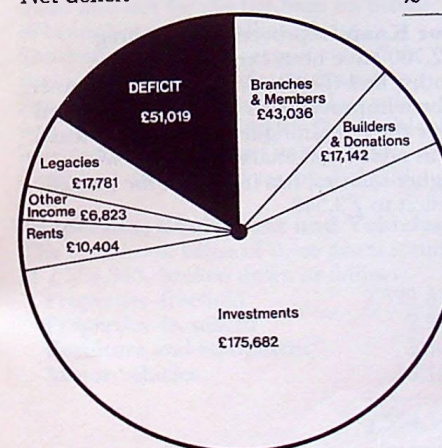
Economy

In the interests of economy, the detailed audited accounts have not been included in this Annual Report but have been produced separately by our own print room.

Copies are available on request.

Income and Expenditure comparisons

	1971/2	1972/3	1973/4	1974/5
Total income from all sources	124,881	225,199	224,092	270,868
Total expenditure	150,667	227,537	265,733	321,887
Net deficit	£25,786	£2,338	£41,641	£51,019



Income	270,868
Expenditure	321,887
Deficit	£ 51,019

During the year to 31 March 1975, £1,000,000 has remained on deposit with the bank, as it would not have been prudent to invest in equities due to the uncertain state of the market. Consequently, £70,000 of our investment income has been treated as capital and placed in the Accumulated Fund, to allow for a historic 7 per cent annual growth in the value of equities and properties over a long period.

Our expenditure exceeded our income by £68,800, but having transferred £17,781 from our Legacy Fund, being the 10-year average of legacies received, the final deficit for the year charged to the Accumulated Fund is £51,019, compared with £41,641 at 31 March 1974.

Income

Membership giving together with special efforts amounted to £43,036, whereas in 1973/4 the amount was £42,824: an improvement this year of £212. The average giving to the Family Purse per head of membership was £3.59 including tax recovered on Deeds of Covenant. Branches ought to reassess their support of the Family Purse in view of increasing costs, and especially in view of regionalisation—but more of that later.

Builders and donations For the continued support of our builders and donors we are very grateful. Their contributions this year have exceeded last year's by £2,460. Part of this increase came from the North Wales & North West Region which collected £1,280 towards its new minibus, a stout effort indeed.

Investments The high interest rates which we have received from the money on deposit with the bank have lifted our investment income to £175,682, after transferring £70,000 to the Accumulated Fund as explained earlier.

Legacies received during the year, listed separately, amounted to £27,129, and the 10-year average included in the Income and Expenditure Account is £17,781.

The total income from all sources amounted to £270,868.

ing College, succeeds Mrs Ernan MacLean, who has given strong and constructive guidance to the Movement in Rhodesia for the past three years. Ernan has now accepted the duties of Extension Officer for the Northern Area. Members are very involved in working with elderly people, and run a Senior Citizens' Day Club in Bulawayo which is open every weekday, with activities ranging from play-reading to 'knitting for the troops'. Salisbury New group is arranging social afternoons and outings for young divorcees and their children. Current projects include the provision of hurricane lamps for use in African community halls in rural areas, the opening of a coffee bar serving tea and sandwiches to the troops at Gwelo, and clubs for African girl school-leavers, where they are taught sewing, cookery and English.

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At the Central Council, held in October 1974, we said farewell to George Liddle, who had served the Movement as Honorary Treasurer since 1967.

George will be remembered for steering us through integration, the sale of 15 Trinity Square and moving Headquarters to Wendover, and for all the great opportunities which these moves have opened up.

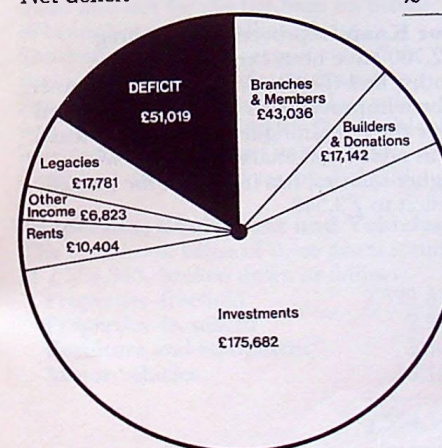
Economy

In the interests of economy, the detailed audited accounts have not been included in this Annual Report but have been produced separately by our own print room.

Copies are available on request.

Income and Expenditure comparisons

	1971/2	1972/3	1973/4	1974/5
Total income from all sources	124,881	225,199	224,092	270,868
Total expenditure	150,667	227,537	265,733	321,887
Net deficit	£25,786	£2,338	£41,641	£51,019



Income	270,868
Expenditure	321,887
Deficit	£ 51,019

During the year to 31 March 1975, £1,000,000 has remained on deposit with the bank, as it would not have been prudent to invest in equities due to the uncertain state of the market. Consequently, £70,000 of our investment income has been treated as capital and placed in the Accumulated Fund, to allow for a historic 7 per cent annual growth in the value of equities and properties over a long period.

Our expenditure exceeded our income by £68,800, but having transferred £17,781 from our Legacy Fund, being the 10-year average of legacies received, the final deficit for the year charged to the Accumulated Fund is £51,019, compared with £41,641 at 31 March 1974.

Income

Membership giving together with special efforts amounted to £43,036, whereas in 1973/4 the amount was £42,824: an improvement this year of £212. The average giving to the Family Purse per head of membership was £3.59 including tax recovered on Deeds of Covenant. Branches ought to reassess their support of the Family Purse in view of increasing costs, and especially in view of regionalisation—but more of that later.

Builders and donations For the continued support of our builders and donors we are very grateful. Their contributions this year have exceeded last year's by £2,460. Part of this increase came from the North Wales & North West Region which collected £1,280 towards its new minibus, a stout effort indeed.

Investments The high interest rates which we have received from the money on deposit with the bank have lifted our investment income to £175,682, after transferring £70,000 to the Accumulated Fund as explained earlier.

Legacies received during the year, listed separately, amounted to £27,129, and the 10-year average included in the Income and Expenditure Account is £17,781.

The total income from all sources amounted to £270,868.

Expenditure

The total expenditure amounted to £321,887.

In line with every other organisation, we have been caught up by inflation, and our expenditure has increased over the past year by £56,114: an increase of 21.11 per cent.

Salaries During the year two additional members of field staff were appointed, and threshold payments were paid as they became due under Stage 3 of the Pay Board's legislation. The overall effect raised salaries to £154,520: an increase of £32,922.

Pensioners In order to assist our previous staff, increases in pensions were granted.

Travelling This is the second highest item in our expenditure. This year it cost £32,499, last year £25,796: an increase of £6,703, or 26 per cent.

With these rising costs we must all consider carefully the demands we make on our staff travelling.

Overseas In accordance with the policy adopted, we have continued to support the Family in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, and we met some of the costs of the Old House, Poperinge.

Repairs to premises In order to have a realistic Repairs Reserve Account, the amount charged to the Income and Expenditure Account for staff houses and Headquarters has been increased to £9,000 which, together with £500 charged to Croydon and Dor Knap Accounts, leaves a balance in the Repairs Reserve Account of £2,398.

Conference In this year's accounts are two staff conferences, one held in April 1974 and the other in January 1975—moved forward because of the Festival. Also included in this figure is the cost of Central Council at Swanwick.

Publicity This shows a large increase from £3,940 to £8,460, accounted for by the purchase of 11 Marler Hayley free-standing display units, together with rising costs in connection with the free issue of *Point Three* to all project volunteers from September 1974 to March 1975, and project posters.

Depreciation The higher figure is caused by the increased number and cost of staff cars. In the past the depreciation on office furniture has not been realistic, and a higher rate has been charged this year.

Deficit on publications The cost of production of *Point Three* doubled during the year, whereas the price charged to the membership remained static. The resultant effect was a loss of £4,000. It would help if every member bought a copy of *Point Three* each month. The sale price has been increased to 10p per copy from April 1975.

'*A Tapestry of Winter*', the record made by The Anglian Singers conducted by John Hull, with Sir Bernard Miles, did not sell as anticipated and a loss of £661 resulted.

Grants during the year totalled £7,613 and included 'Challenge USA'—an attempt to initiate Toc H in California—£6,000 (a contribution towards this of £500 was received from the Tubby Clayton Fund).

Alison House. We accept the responsibility for the salaries of the warden and hostess.

Marks reserve for repairs In order to maintain the fabric of the Marks and not to burden the residents with all the costs, £10,000 is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Marks Ever-increasing costs and time-lags in reviewing charges to Marksmen have resulted in a deficit on every Mark, totalling £11,397. An inquiry will report during the life of the present Central Executive Committee as to 'How many Marks the Movement can sustain'.

Dor Knap Improvements totalling £2,700 have been carried out to the Bothy, and the 'Duck or Grouse' entrance. These improvements are being amortised over the remaining five years of the lease. This additional charge, together with higher salaries, has increased the overall deficit to £3,548.

Capital

Accumulated Fund This has increased during the year:

Fund at 31 March 1974	£	£2,668,548
Add: Receipts in respect of completed developments	462	
Profit on sales of properties	4,072	
Book value of branch premises added during the year ..	590	
Transfer from investment income	70,000	
		75,124
		2,743,672
Add: Legacies received	£	27,129
Less: Paid to branches	2,885	
Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account 17,781		
	20,666	
		6,463
		2,750,135
		51,019
		£2,699,116
Less: Net deficit for the year ended 31 March 1975 ..		

Investments New investments in the year totalled £88,231, and at 31 March 1975 the market value of our investments was £1,022,238, against a book value of £1,278,441: a depreciation of 20.04 per cent. This valuation is for investments held for the Central Funds of the Movement and not for the holdings on behalf of branches and of Talbot House, Southampton, which were included in previous valuations. The comparative figure for Central Funds held last year was £868,979. Allowing for the additional investments, the market values have improved during the year by £65,028.

Properties, Equipment and Vehicles

The total book value of these assets stands at £554,345, broken down as follows:

Properties-freehold	£529,876
Properties-leasehold	2,992
Furniture and equipment	3,308
Motor vehicles	18,169
	£554,345

The estimated present-day valuation of our freehold properties exceeds £1½ million.

During the year the building of a staff house for the General Secretary at Wendover was completed, the total cost being £33,000; and a further staff house in Wendover was purchased for £13,760. Talbot House, Seghill, Northumberland, was purchased for £18,843 and is leased to a trust for a treatment centre for personality-retarded boys.

A warden's flat has been created at Mark III, Hackney, at a cost of £3,000.

At Mark V, Southampton, the balance of the loan to the Management Committee for improvements to the property was capitalised at £5,480.

Bank deposits The balance at the close of the year was £1,040,000.

Liquidity Current liabilities exceed current assets by £18,565.

Legacies

We are deeply indebted to the members and friends who have sufficient faith in the future of this Movement, which is so evident by the legacies received.

Regionalisation

The creation of eight new Regions brings with it a new policy with regard to finance.

The Central Funds of the Movement will maintain responsibility for staff salaries, pensions and the provision of staff housing and motor-cars. All other costs for running your region, including Marks and Centres, must be met from your members, branches, special efforts, builders and donations. We strongly urge all who are paying any income tax to sign a Deed of Covenant, in order to increase your region's income.

In 1969 we were challenged to support the Family Purse to the tune of £5 per head, but alas, that goal has never been reached. In today's inflationary world the figure is greatly increased and your region will have informed you of the new targets needed for your region's work.

In order to meet the challenge, we all *must*:

- Increase the committed membership of the Movement.
- Reassess our own personal giving.
- Sign a Deed of Covenant if we are paying tax.
- Organise a special effort for our region.
- **Stop thinking we have a bottomless pit full of money.**

Thanks

To all who are involved in branches, Districts, Regions, Marks, and Centres who carry out financial duties for the Movement. We are most grateful.

Legacies

Toc H is deeply grateful for the following legacies received for the year ended 31 March 1975:

T F Addis	£ 13
Mrs A M Biggar	437
A F Blake	500
F P Brown	1,000
Miss F L Cleton	5
Miss C M Cole	528
L Darwin	20
Miss B E Harbor	200
Miss D G Hewitt	16,343
Miss L J Hirst	804
Mrs F E Hodges	25
Miss E M Horsley	432
Mrs R H Justice	500
V M Keeble	328
Mrs F E Langford	160
Mrs I Lec	178
Rev T Malam	100
Mrs E Metcalfe	100
Miss M A Miller	1,250
E Moss	100
G S Nason	335
Mrs O Read-Collins	100
Mrs J Richardson	666
Sir A H Rucker	100
S Swain	1,065
Miss J P Turnnidge	1,117
Miss J M Vickers	25
Miss F S Wales	453
J M Watson	50
	<hr/>
	£26,934

Toc H Women's Association

Mrs N K Edwards	£ 100
Miss S A Egerton	50
Mrs A G Fletcher	25
Miss D A Foster	20
	<hr/>
	£27,129

Services Work

BAOR

We are able to report another good year for sales, but owing to rising costs the final result is disappointing.

	1974/5	1973/4	Increase	%
Sales	614,292	525,153	89,139	16.97
Purchases	434,608	367,571	67,037	18.24
Gross profit	179,684	157,582	22,102	14.02
Trading costs	170,654	132,177	38,477	29.11
Net profit	9,030	25,405	—16,375	
% Net profit	1.47	4.84		

For those of us who are privileged to visit BAOR the service which is given to the troops and their families is greatly appreciated, and to all the staff in BAOR we again thank you for your loyal support of our work.

Talbot House Young Seafarers' Residential Club, Southampton

This year's result, a deficit of £1,618, is disappointing. This has been dealt with by transferring £1,000 from their Repairs Reserve Account, leaving a net deficit of £618.

To our many donors who regularly support the work of the house, our most grateful thanks; and especially to the King George's Fund for Sailors (£2,500). With ever rising costs the Management Committee has reviewed its charges and will continue to do so, to endeavour to keep ahead of the game.

Questions

We will be pleased to answer any questions on the Accounts, but notice prior to the Council will enable us to obtain the information you require.

Conclusion

As we said at the beginning, the monetary gain from the sale of 15 Trinity Square has opened up great opportunities, and it is up to each and every one of us, with God's guidance, to seize these opportunities to create His Kingdom in the wills of men.

Gerry Ashfield *Honorary Treasurer*
George Barnett *Finance Secretary*

From the Director

I don't think it is fanciful to suggest that there is a new spirit of confidence blowing through the Movement in this Diamond Jubilee Year. The solid evidence which sustains this confidence is to be found in the pages of this Report.

In response to this mood last year's Central Executive adopted a policy of expansion which was endorsed by the Central Council. Despite the increasingly difficult economic climate in which we have to operate, the policy has been reaffirmed by this year's Executive. We remain convinced that this is the right time to spend capital as an investment in the future.

Extension has therefore been, and must remain, high on the list of priorities for all Regions. By extension we mean both the recruitment of new members and the formation of new branches, and also extending the influence and contribution of Toc H in the community. In recent years, for instance, we have gained an increased awareness of the importance of developing the creative use of leisure, and during this past year we have taken

fresh initiatives, both in the North East and in the West Midlands, in relation to industry.

In both senses of the word 'extension', this Report gives news of encouraging developments. Progress is never as fast or as dramatic as we would like. The good news has to be balanced by areas of stagnation or even retreat. But the overall picture none the less gives good grounds for optimism. There can be no doubt now of the need for Toc H in a society vastly different from that in which it first developed. The opportunities for growth are there whenever we have the faith and the imagination to seize them.

The current severe cut-back in the expenditure of local authority Social Services Departments faces us, in common with other voluntary bodies, with both a danger and an opportunity. The danger is that local authorities will feel that the easiest way to cut expenditure is simply to prune grants to voluntary organisations. The opportunity is that Social Services Departments are realising that only with greatly increased help from volunteers will they have any hope of maintaining their present level of service.

In meeting human need, the voluntary principle is crucially important. If we are to lift the country out of its present malaise, if we are to re-create a healthy community life, we have to accept a responsibility for meeting the needs of those around us, and not leave it to some amorphous 'they'. Only communities where 'good neighbourliness' happens naturally and spontaneously provide a life worth living. This is the challenge and the opportunity presented to Toc H in its Diamond Jubilee Year.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

The Central Executive Committee of Toc H 1974-5

Chairman: Mrs B Cornick JP
Hon Treasurer: G W Ashfield
Director: K Prideaux-Brune MA
Headquarters Padre: The Rev A G Knight BD
General Secretary: G A Francis

H O Brier	Mrs D G Longley
A J Brooke	Dr S F Mitchell
C A Cattell	J R Morgan
R C Coates	Miss B M Pugh
Mrs A M Cook JP	D K J Ratcliff
J C Cutt	Mrs J Rauch
Mrs M M Edwards	R Roberts MBE
A I Frymann JP	Mrs O J Tennant
Mrs V E M Inglis	R S Thorne
D E Lockhart	

Toc H Women's Association

Hon Treasurer: G W Ashfield
Director: K Prideaux-Brune MA
Hon Chaplain: The Rev A G Knight BD
General Secretary: G A Francis

Mrs M Berry	Mrs D G Longley
Mrs B Cornick JP	Mrs M Nicholson
Miss D G Edwards	Miss B M Pugh
Mrs Y Frymann	Mrs J Rauch
Mrs R Griffiths	

The Headquarters Staff of Toc H as at 1 September 1975

Director: K Prideaux-Brune MA
Headquarters Padre: The Rev A G Knight BD
General Secretary: G A Francis
Assistant General Secretaries: Miss J L Green
 K A Rogers JP

Finance Secretary: G E Barnett
Accountant: J B A Kirby
Public Relations Secretary: C H Gibbs MAIE
Editor 'Point Three': Mrs S C McWilliam BA
Registrar: G B Dixon
Marks and Properties Adviser: H D Mills MIEE FIHVE
International Secretary: Mrs G Lynn,
 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL

Bankers: Barclays Bank Ltd
 78 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JN

Auditors: Hemsley Miller & Company
Hon Legal Advisers: Herbert Oppenheimer,
 Nathan & Vandyk

Solicitors: Ponsford & Devenish,
 Tivendale & Munday

Surveyors: Donaldson & Sons

The Regional Staff of Toc H as at 1 September 1975

Regional Staff

Mid-Eastern Region: J A Biggerstaff, J W Cliffe,
 Miss S Cumming, Mr and Mrs F Howlett,
 Rev J H Hull, Rev C M White

North Eastern Region: W W Bains, Rev P Bishop,
 A E Dudman, R Jackson

North Wales & North West Region: Miss C Bostock,
 A Daniels, J B Macmillan, F G Rice

Scottish Region: Mrs L Ayres, D J M Russell

Southern Region: Miss E J Bacon, H Buckle,
 J H W Forbes, W Youngs

South Eastern Region: Miss J M Auton, J Bird,
 W E Brittain, J Burgess, P East, R F Mills,
 Rev M B Perkins, C Walton, Miss J Whitmore,
 Mrs C J Wood

South Western Region: Rev K M Beck,
 K Lindsay-Smith, T W Sizer

West Midlands & South Wales Region: G Bates,
 G L Lee, J E Mitchell, C J Trinder

Services Clubs, BAOR

Commissioner: K R Rea DFM

Berlin: A Laing; **Munster:** D Woodall;
Paderborn: J Sowerby; **Verden:** L Harvie;
Wolfenbittel: H Peyton-Bruhl

Membership statistics to 31 March 1975

Members	..	..	..	..	12,244
New members	..	..	..	..	606
Branches	..	..	..	..	845
New branches	..	..	..	..	18
Branches closed	..	..	..	..	67
Groups	..	..	..	..	16
Builders	..	..	..	..	3,840

The Registrar wishes to emphasise that for the first time in years there is a barely perceptible drop in the total membership figures over the past 12 months.

The Officers of Toc H and Toc H Women's Association

Headquarters 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT

	Toc H	Toc H Women's Association
<i>Patrons</i>	HM The Queen HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother	HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
<i>Vice-Patron</i>	The Hon Angus Ogilvy	
<i>Presidents</i>	The Archbishop of Canterbury Lt-Gen Sir Edmund Herring KCMG Rajaiah D Paul MA The Lord Maclean Bt, KT, KBE The Very Rev The Lord MacLeod MC, DD L G O Prideaux-Brune The Rt Hon Sir Robert Tredgold KCMG	
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	The Rev K G Bloxham BD C A G Brownjohn The Viscount Cobham KC The Bishop of Coventry Brian T Dickson J Emmerson DCM Robert Faulkner Sir George Haynes CBE Sir Frederick Hoare Bt Arthur Lahaye The Bishop of London Wilfrid Lord S J de Lotbinière CVO P Hugh B Lyon MC R E Donald McKenzie Loris E Mather CBE G H Nash DCM J Lyndsay Orr NL Lt-Cdr George W Potter RN (retd) The Rt Rev C K Sansbury DD The Rt Rev David S Sheppard Ronald S Symons CMC, CBE The Rt Hon Richard Wood MP	The Countess of Mar and Kellie Lady Mayhew
<i>Trustees</i>	Sir James Brown LL.D Sir Miles Clifford KBE, CMC G W U Liddle MBE	Mrs N Bloxham G W U Liddle MBE Mrs C Prideaux-Brune
<i>Headquarters Padre</i>	The Rev A G Knight DD	
<i>Hon Chaplain</i>		The Rev A G Knight DD
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	G W Ashfield	G W Ashfield
<i>Director</i>	K Prideaux-Brune MA	K Prideaux-Brune MA
<i>General Secretary</i>	G A Francis	G A Francis

